

Tiffany Jackson  
44 Prospect Lane  
Hamden, CT. 06517

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to formally address the idea of an experiment that I feel would be harming the health of young children.

RE: Solicitation of Public Review and Comment Review and Comment of  
Research Protocol: A multicenter, Randomized Dose Response of Dryvax  
Administered to children 2 to 5 years of age. Dockel No. 02N-0466

In my opinion this would be a horrible way to test the vaccine for smallpox. I completely understand that all experiments have to be tested under the chance of a risk, but not in a case such as this. For one, the children would be at a great risk for an infection called vaccinia, which is worse than the smallpox. Even worse the children can also infect those that they come into close contact with. Including family members, and all the others that they may come into contact with during this experiment.

Not only will this experiment have a chance of harming others, as well as its subjects, but also the amount of subjects' chosen is highly unusual. There has been an estimate of over 6 billion people inhabiting the United States today, how can "a few dozen" toddlers make a significant change in our economy? In order for this study to be valid shouldn't the researchers a few hundred, or thousand toddlers? However in this case the more subjects used the greater the risk of spreading the infection vaccinia.

Once again I understand that all experiments are costly, thought provoking, and stressing. All with the hope of changing the world someday, however this study seems to be not well planned, and unorganized. Apparently not much of this study has been changed since the original vaccine of smallpox ended in 1972.

I feel that the study should be immediately halted or prolonged until the researchers can find more than forty toddlers for the experiment, or even better find a better way in which to test the children. In which the children and their contacts won't be at any risk for infection. Toddlers won't understand that by pulling off their bandage they can seriously harm their mother, or father! This experiment appears to have more negative effects than positive; therefore it should not be continued any further.

I would like to continue by adding that upon reading about this experiment, I have found that researchers have discovered that diluted samples of the vaccine work well in adults. Therefore I don't understand why this experiment has to really include toddlers at all.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. In which you took the time to consider my opinion. Hopefully you'll keep it in mind when deciding whether or not to conduct the smallpox experiment.

*Tiffany Jackson*

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